



RURAL DISTRICT OF DAVENTRY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR 1954.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Daventry.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1954, incorporating that of the Sanitary Inspector.

Vital statistics for the year 1954 reveal a marked increase in the number of deaths taking place, namely, 202 as against 162 for the previous year. The corresponding crude death rate is, therefore, also raised, and is in excess of that for England and Wales. However, the standardised rate, 10.47 is substantially below the national figure. The relationship of male to female deaths, male being slightly in excess of female, was maintained, and it will be observed from the Mortality Table in Section A that, whilst Heart Disease in its various forms continued to be by far the commonest cause of death, there was a significant upward trend in deaths from Cancer. The actual increase was 16, equally divided between males and females.

The number of births recorded during the year shows a very slight increase over the figure for the previous year, whilst illegitimate births have declined by 1. The number of infants failing to survive their first year fell from 7 to 2, none of which died during the first four weeks of life. The resultant Infant Mortality Rate of 7.7 per 1,000 live births, as opposed to 25.5 for the country as a whole, can be described as immensely satisfactory.

What would otherwise have been a particularly good report on the health of the District in relation to the prevalence of Infectious Diseases was sadly marred by the occurrence, for the first time for 5 years, of 2 cases of diphtheria. They were both very young children, members of the same family, neither of whom had previously received any protection against the disease by immunisation. Fortunately, the form of the infection was a mild one, and it is probable that further spread was prevented by the fact that nearly all the other children in that particular locality had been immunised.

The general housing position throughout the District during 1954 shows little change from that of the previous year. Almost exactly the same number of houses were provided by the Council, whilst private building fell from 28 to 21. By the end of the year a further 48 houses were in course of erection. One important advance must, however be recorded. This is the number of applications made by property owners, and which were approved both by the Council and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act 1949 and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. The figure was 21, as opposed to 1 only for 1953, the sum of money involved amounting to £6,952. Bearing in mind the high and exacting standards required to be attained by dwelling houses in order to qualify for a grant, the Council has every reason to feel satisfied that it is doing a very valuable work in helping individuals to bring their properties up to modern standards, since by so doing it ensures that conditions as a whole throughout the District are being enhanced at minimal expense.

With regard to Slum Clearance a little more headway was made in 1954 than in the previous year. A total of 24 houses were dealt with either

through demolition, statutory closing, or the obtaining of a voluntary undertaking by owners not to re-let after vacation until made fit. At the same time, towards the end of the year, a start was made on the monumental task of surveying houses in all parishes in order to present the Council with a total picture of the Slum Clearance problem, and to prepare for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government suggested proposals for dealing with the same. The standards used were those laid down in section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.

The very frustrating situation with regard to provision of adequate sewage disposal works in villages throughout the District remained unchanged during the whole of 1954. By the end of the year permission to commence work on the proposed schemes, referred to in my report for the previous year, had yet to be obtained so that, apart from individual improvements referred to in Section C of this report, no significant progress in sanitary matters was made.

I wish to express my appreciation for the assistance given to me by the staff of the Sanitary Inspector's department, also for the encouragement received from the chairman and members of the Public Health and Housing Committees throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

H.A.H. SUMMERS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Church Walk,
DAVENTRY.

DAVENTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members of the Public Health Committee:

Messrs. Councillors C. A. Bevan (Chairman);
J. O. Adams, J.P. (Vice-Chairman of the Council); S. Allen;
J. W. Anscomb, J.P. C.C.; Mrs. G. L. Atterbury; A. Berridge;
I. L. Beamond; W. H. Boswell; Mrs. P. E. Cox; C. O. Checkley;
C. E. Gibbes; D. H. Hill; D. H. Jolley, J.P. (Chairman of the
Council); The Revd. Canon T. W. Long; H. A. Malin;
W. O. Rydings; E. H. Thompson; Mrs. C.M.S. Thornton, C.C.;
J. S. L. Townley; E. Williams and E. Wilkins.

Public Health Officers of the Council:

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. H. A. H. Summers, M.B: B.Ch.: B.A.O.: D.P.H.

also holds appointment of

Medical Officer of Health, Daventry Borough.
Medical Officer of Health, Brixworth Rural District.
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health and
County School Medical Officer.

Sanitary Inspector:

J. M. Harkness, R.S.I.J.B.: M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector's Assistant:

B. C. Lines.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1954

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	79,423
Population (based on Registrar-General's figures)		...	...	16,590
Number of separate dwellings occupied	...	...	...	5,444
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£91,195
Product of a Penny Rate		...	...	£359

LIVE BIRTHS:

	Total	Male	Female	RATE	Rate for England & Wales
Legitimate	246	123	123		
Illegitimate	11	5	6		
	257	128	129	15.27	15.2

STILL BIRTHS:

	Total	Male	Female	RATE	Rate for England & Wales
Legitimate	1	1	-		
Illegitimate	1	1	-		
	2	2	-	0.12	--

DEATHS:

(All causes)	Total	Male	Female	RATE	Rate for England & Wales
	202	103	99	12.18	11.4
	—	—	—		

Deaths from Puerperal Causes ... Nil.

INFANT MORTALITY: (Rate per 1,000 live births)

	Total	Male	Female	RATE	Rate for England & Wales
Legitimate	2	2	-		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		
	2	2	-	7.7	25.5
	—	—	—		

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY: Deaths under 4 weeks: (rate per 1,000 live births)

No deaths were recorded of infants under 4 weeks old.

Death from Infectious Diseases ... Nil



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Statistics showing Population and Numbers of Occupied Houses in each Parish of the District

PARISH	POPULATION		NUMBER OF OCCUPIED HOUSES		
	1931 Census	1951 Census	TOTAL	PRIVATE HOUSES	COUNCIL HOUSES
Ashby St. Ledgers	210	169	51	51	--
Badby	440	478	166	128	38
Barby	471	536	138	104	34
Braunston	1015	1161	359	205	154
Brockhall	38	34	9	9	--
Byfield	868	796	298	185	113
Canons Ashby	49	42	14	14	--
Catesby	91	86	28	28	--
Charwelton	165	166	55	47	8
Clay Coton	71	51	20	16	4
Crick	681	728	232	202	30
Dodford	238	216	56	49	7
Elkington	69	62	17	17	--
Everdon	406	420	142	122	20
Farthinstone	177	174	63	59	4
Fawsley	29	21	10	10	--
Flore	786	896	334	230	104
Hellidon	148	160	59	55	4
Kilsby	501	558	188	139	49
Lilbourne	209	241	76	48	28
Long Buckby	2325	2316	841	684	157
Newnham	356	383	136	104	32
Norton	315	265	101	101	--
Preston Capes	156	167	60	54	6
Stanford	53	43	13	13	--
Staverton	319	361	114	84	30
Stowe-ix-Churches	219	180	70	66	4
Watford	324	281	94	86	8
Weedon Bec	1750	1734	468	330	138
Welton	358	381	121	86	35
West Haddon	714	704	251	209	52
Whilton	216	168	63	53	10
Winwick	153	89	34	34	--
Woodford Halse	1740	1764	610	418	192
Yelvertoft	349	462	143	111	32
	16,009	16,293			

AREA: The area of the district is 79,423 acres or 124.2 square miles, which gives an average of 1 person to 4.78 acres or 133 persons to the square mile.

POPULATION: The population for 1954 was 16590, showing an increase of 110 over the figures for 1953. The natural increase in the population, i.e. excess of births over deaths, was 55.

DEATHS: The total number of deaths recorded was 202, showing an increase of 40 on the number for 1953. The standardised rate for 1954 was 10.47 (calculated from Registrar-General's comparability factors), compared with 11.4 for England & Wales.

OCCUPIED DWELLINGS: A check has been made of the Rate Books for the numbers of occupied dwellings in the district, and the very slight variation between the figures for 1953 and 1954 is due to dwellings having been demolished, or placed under Closing Orders.

The causes of death in the district during the year are given in the following table:

CAUSES	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	1	2
Tuberculosis (Other Forms)	1	-	1
Other Infective & Parasitic diseases	1	1	2
Cancer (all forms)	19	18	37
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	11	15	26
Coronary Disease of the Heart	10	4	14
Hypertension, with Heart Disease	1	3	4
Heart Disease (other)	21	30	51
Other Circulatory Disease	5	1	6
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Bronchitis	5	2	7
Respiratory Disease (other)	1	-	1
Gastritis & Enteritis & Diarrhoea	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach	2	-	2
Nephritis & Nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	-	4
Congenital Malformations	1	-	1
Ill-defined Causes	9	12	21
Motor and Other Accidents	3	2	5
All Other Accidents	3	3	6
Suicide	1	1	2
	103	99	202

The commonest cause of death was heart disease, but there was an increase in deaths from cancer, and vascular lesions showed the next highest figure.

BIRTHS: The number of births was 257, giving a standardised rate of 16.6 (calculated on Registrar-General's comparability factors) compared with 15.2 for England & Wales.

STILL BIRTHS: There were only 2, compared with 7 the previous year, giving a rate of 0.12, per 1,000 total population.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS: The number was 11 as compared with 12 for 1953.

MATERNAL MORTALITY: It is pleasing to be able once again to record that there were no deaths associated with childbirth.

INFANT MORTALITY: The number of children under the age of 1 year who died was 2: there was no death under the age of 4 weeks. The deaths were due to bronchial pneumonia and congenital deformity, respectively.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

LABORATORY SERVICE: The Public Health Laboratory Service operating at the General Hospital, Northampton is available for the diagnosis and analysis of specimens relative to infectious disease. This service is free of cost to the Local Authority.

AMBULANCE SERVICES: For infectious cases the ambulance from the Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton, is used, and for non-infectious cases and residents the ambulance maintained by the St. John Ambulance Brigade stationed at Daventry is used. These ambulances are maintained by the Brigade, who act as agents of the County Council in providing an ambulance service.

NURSING IN THE HOME: This service is provided directly by the County Council, who have their nurses residing in various parishes of the District, and it would appear that the whole of the District is well covered.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS: Infant Welfare Clinics are held at Long Buckby, Weedon, West Haddon and Woodford Halse. Ante-Natal Clinics are held in Daventry and mothers from the surrounding District are welcomed. The County Health Department provide travelling facilities in certain areas, to enable mothers and children to attend these clinics.

HOSPITALS: The treatment of all infectious cases, with the exception of Tuberculosis cases, is carried out at the Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton, while general medical and surgical cases are treated at either The General Hospital, Northampton, The Daneatre Hospital, Daventry, or the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948: It was necessary to take action in 2 cases under section 47 of the National Assistance Act during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY: All Public water supplies are under the control of the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board, with the exception of two privately owned supplies. All supplies were maintained at a satisfactory level throughout the year, which may have been due to some extent to the much higher rainfall average. The Water Board's new reservoir at Pitsford was rapidly taking shape and the works involved were well ahead of schedule. This new reservoir will eventually serve a great part of the county. There are only 6 small parishes and hamlets in the District without a mains supply of water, and in these parts, the chief source of supply is by well and pump. All the public water supplies are under constant treatment by chlorination, and regular monthly samples of these supplies are submitted to the analyst for bacteriological examination. The analyst's reports have generally been 'Very Satisfactory'.

Enquiries made as to conditions of supplies	...	426
Number of water samples analysed	...	96
Samples proved satisfactory after analysis	...	83
Samples proved unsatisfactory after analysis	...	13
Pumps repaired	...	2
Wells cleansed	...	1
Informal notices sent regarding water supplies	...	8

HOUSES WITH PIPED or NON-PIPED WATER SUPPLIES

PARISH	PIPED SUPPLIES			NON-PIPED SUPPLIES		
	Laid on Supply	No. of houses		Parish Well	No. of houses	
		Stand Supply	Tap Supply		Private Well	Spring
Ashby St. Ledgers	29	17		-	5	-
Badby	84	67		-	14	1
Barby	111	3		-	24	1
Braunston	304	25		-	30	-
Brockhall	5	--		-	4	-
Byfield	239	2		6	51	-
Canons Ashby	1	--		-	13	-
Catesby	6	--		-	12	10
Charwelton	45	--		-	10	-
Clay Coton	16	--		-	2	2
Crick	203	8		-	20	1
Dodford	18	2		11	25	-
Elkington	--	--		-	16	1
Everdon	135	--		-	7	-
Farthingstone	15	36		-	12	-
Fawsley	3	--		-	7	-
Flore	271	16		-	47	-
Hellidon	50	--		-	9	-
Kilsby	164	--		-	24	-
Lilbourne	65	--		-	11	-
Long Buckby	755	25		-	61	-
Newnham	120	--		-	16	-
Norton	24	47		-	26	4
Preston Capes	48	--		-	12	-
Stanford	10	--		-	3	-
Staverton	102	--		-	11	1
Stowe-ix-Churches	12	4		-	54	-
Watford	42	18		-	30	4
Weedon Bec	430	13		-	25	-
Welton	99	15		-	7	-
West Haddon	203	36		-	22	-
Whilton	15	21		-	27	-
Winwick	31	2		-	1	-
Woodford Halse	566	2		-	42	-
Yelvertoft	90	33		-	20	-
	4311	392		17	700	24

SEWAGE DISPOSAL, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE: No further progress was made regarding the provision of new sewerage disposal schemes. The position remains the same so far, the Council being anxious to provide further schemes and the Ministry refusing consent for such schemes to proceed. Once again, there was quite a large amount of new drainage work carried out, chiefly in those parishes which have proper sewage works, a feature being the number of bathrooms provided in houses. The overall drainage position in the sewered parishes is satisfactory. Little improvement could be made in other parishes, except where septic tanks were provided. Many enquiries are made regarding provision of new drainage systems, bathrooms and water closets in such parishes, but their admission into the existing surface water sewers, would only create a further load on the already heavy expense involved in the cleansing of the dykes. The majority of new drainage works which were provided, were carried out voluntarily by the owners concerned, informal action only being necessary in a few instances.

Parishes of the district with sewage disposal works are as follows:-

Ashby St. Ledgers	Long Buckby
Badby	Newnham
Barby	Staverton
Braunston	Watford
Byfield	Weedon Bec
Crick	West Haddon
Flore	Winwick
Kilsby	Woodford Halse
Yelvertoft (part sewered)	

There are also temporary schemes in operation at Charwelton and Lilbourne, and a part scheme of a temporary nature at Welton.

DISINFECTION: Disinfection was carried out at all homes from which infectious cases were notified and removed to Isolation Hospital, and also at homes from which Tuberculosis patients were removed to sanatorium, or in which they had died.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS: No cases were brought to notice.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS, PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, SECTION 269: Five licences to site and use caravans were approved, and two licences to site and use caravans were renewed.

SCHOOLS: The School premises in the District were generally satisfactory.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949: As from May 1st, the Council appointed a part time operative, to carry out work in the District in accordance with the requirements of the Act. The scheme was approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Pests Control Division) the Council being able to recover from the Ministry one half of the costs involved.

In accordance with Ministry instructions, the sewers in the parishes of Badby; Barby; Braunston; Charwelton; Crick; Flore; Kilsby; Lilbourne; Long Buckby; Newnham; Staverton; Watford; Weedon Beck; Welton; West Haddon; Winwick; Woodford Halse and Yelvertoft were all pre-baited once, and in addition the sewers in the housing estates at Braunston; Long Buckby; Weedon and Woodford Halse have been pre-baited once - and a start was made on the second pre-baiting of sewers, which showed a bait take after the first treatment. For this purpose 1,222 manholes were pre-baited with rusk bait, and 251 manholes showed a partial take of bait. The necessary continuation of pre-baiting followed for four days, and poison bait of damp rusk and zinc phosphide was laid on the fifth day.

Sewage disposal works were treated as follows:- Braunston, 4 times, twice no take; Byfield 3 times, twice no take; Charwelton 1 treatment; Crick twice, once no take; Flore twice, once no take; Kilsby twice, no takes; Long Buckby 3 times, no takes; Weedon 4 times, twice no takes; Welton twice, once no take; West Haddon 4 times, twice no take; Winwick 1 treatment; Woodford Halse 3 times, twice no take; and Yelvertoft twice, no takes.

The 11 refuse tips in the District have been treated at least once a month, with oatmeal bait and warfarin.

As a result of the above work, 606 bodies were picked up on the refuse tips and 122 were picked out of sewer manholes or off the sewage works screens.

While engaged on the sewers round council housing estates, 577 back gardens of council houses were inspected for rats.

There have been 188 inspections of farms premises and private dwellings. There have been 4 treatments of minor infestations at council houses, and 14 treatments at private house property, but no treatment of farm premises. It was found that many of the farmers have contracts with the Pests Officer of the Agricultural Executive Committee for the destruction of rats. The Rodent Operative has kept an eye on rick threshing and in one or two instances has drawn attention to the requirement for wire to be placed around a rick before threshing commences. No charge was made for treatments to private houses, but, should the occasion arise, a charge would be made for treatments to farms and business premises.

The van has covered 2,424 miles on rodent control work.

The wages paid to the Operative, including superannuation and National Insurance was £175. 13. 6d.

Poisons used: 22lbs. 14ozs. Warfarin 4 lbs. 8ozs. Zinc Phosphide.

Baits used: 417lbs. Pinhead Oatmeal 223lbs. Sausage rusk.

Cost of Poisons used: £10.7.5. for Warfarin. £2. 5. 1d. for Zinc Phosphide

Cost of Baits used: £11.14.3d. for Oatmeal. £6.19. 5d. for Sausage Rusk.

I consider the scheme worked very well indeed, and I pay tribute to the Operative for his work and his manner of keeping his records.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1937 and 1948: According to returns from the Department of Her Majesty's Inspector of Factories relative to additions and deletions from the register, there remained 72 premises on the register, chiefly workshops. All have been visited and 4 cases requiring cleansing were found, which were remedied by informal action. One offence against the Act, brought to notice by H.M. Inspector of Factories, was remedied by informal action. Two lists of outworkers were received, one in June and one in December, each list referring to the same outworker. The premises were found to be satisfactory.

SCAVENGING: Household Refuse and Salvage collection continued to run fairly smoothly during the year, although a period just before the half-year presented difficulties, as three of the staff left and it proved impossible to recruit labour to fill the gaps for a month.

During that period it was with great reluctance that a fortnightly collection had to be instituted. Happily, staff was ultimately found and the regular weekly collection was quickly resumed. This staff problem has been very acute throughout the country, many local authorities' refuse collections being irregular due to this. It is felt that the maintenance of the Council's regular weekly refuse collection, is something for which they may be justly pleased. Complaints regarding refuse collection were very few indeed, further evidence of the public's satisfaction. During the year the Brington Road Tip, Long Buckby, was completely soiled-over and seeded down, and handed back to the owner. Soiling-over was also commenced at the Braunston Tip, as the life of this tip was fast diminishing and efforts to find another site were already in hand.

The collection of salvage continued. There was no difficulty in disposing of the materials salvaged, and a total of £329. 7.3. was received.

Prices were maintained throughout the year and there was every indication that higher rates would obtain in the new year. The vehicles continued to give every satisfaction.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS, 1928 & 1936:

Number of licences to store petroleum renewed	...	60
" " " " " granted	...	1
" " " " Carbide of Calcium renewed		2
" " " " Cellulose Solutions renewed		1

All stores appeared to comply with the regulations. One licence was voluntarily surrendered during the year, due to the closing down of the premises.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Part 10) CANAL BOATS:

There were 394 entries of canal boats registered with this Council at the end of the year. 5 registrations were cancelled, due to boats being sold and being re-registered with other Local Authorities.

HOUSING

The numbers of new houses allocated and tenanted during the year was almost the same as for the previous year, there being 102 tenanted as against 103 in 1953. If this rate could at least be maintained, the more serious housing problems in the district would become very much less acute, but the allocation by the Ministry of new houses to the District appears to diminish each year. There was still a waiting list of 565 at the end of the year, this being only 3 less than at the end of the previous year; thus will be seen that as fast as some applicants are re-housed, others come along to take their place on the register. Much time has been spent in interviewing council house applicants; interviews regarding the taking in of lodgers to council houses and the erection of huts etc., on the various council housing estates, apart from duties in connection with general housing repairs. A small start was made with Slum Clearance, and a start was made on the inspection and recording of houses under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

The Council's competition for council house gardens was again disappointing from the point of view of numbers competing. These competitions can be of immense value in maintaining a good standard around the various council housing estates, and it is hoped that more tenants will take part another year.

With regard to new houses, 102 were completed and occupied, as follows:

1 at Badby	1 at Long Buckby (Flat and Surgery)
8 at Barby	6 at Lilbourne
24 at Braunston	4 at Watford
10 at Byfield	12 at Weedon
20 at Flore	2 at Welton
6 at Kilsby	2 at West Haddon
6 at Woodford Halse	

while a further 21 private houses were completed and occupied.

A further 48 houses were in varying stages of erection, 6 at Barby; 6 at Crick; 10 at Kilsby; 12 at Weedon Bec; 2 at Welton; 4 at West Haddon and 8 at Woodford Halse.

Council houses re-let by parish representatives	...	39
Council house tenants given permission to take lodgers	...	41
Council house tenants given permission to keep a pig or poultry		25
Internal exchanges of council houses permitted	...	6
Exchanges permitted between a council house tenant of this District with another District	...	2

The year showed a decided increase in the numbers of applications for Improvement Grants to properties, and the following summary gives details:-

Number of Applications received	...	37
Number of Applications withdrawn	...	1
Number of Applications turned down by Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor after their visit	...	15
		<u>16</u>
Number of Applications approved after inspection and later approved by the Council	...	21
		<u>21</u>
Total Improvement Grants approved	...	£6,952. 13. 9d.
Of this total, the Council contribute 25% and the Ministry the remainder.		

Since the Act came into force, 52 applications for Grant have been received, 12 have been withdrawn by the applicants, 16 have been turned down after inspection and 24 have been approved at a total figure of £7,705. 8. 9d.

The somewhat high figure of applications turned down after inspection is due entirely to the fact that the properties concerned would not, and could not, attain the standard laid down in the Act.

The following are the general details regarding Housing for the year 1954, as asked for by the Ministry.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:-

(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under (Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	981
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		1076
(ii) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	305
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		305
(iii)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		262

(iv)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	43
2.	Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:-		
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	22
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-		
A -	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil	
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-		
	(a) by owners	Nil	
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil	
B -	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-		
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	47	
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of informal notices:		
	(a) by owners	46	
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil	
C -	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-		
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6	
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition Orders ...	2	
(iii)	Number of dwelling houses voluntarily demolished in consequence of informal action ...	3	
D -	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, as amended by section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953		
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	11	

(ii)	Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, tenements or rooms having been rendered fit	...	4
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Other aspects of Housing work:

Number of dwellings in respect of which Voluntary Undertakings have been given by the owners during the year	4
Number of visits to council house applicants	...	578	

HOUSING ACT, 1936 (Part IV) Overcrowding.

It has not been possible to keep an up-to-date check on the numbers of overcrowded houses, due to continual family movements and re-housing, but it was known that by the Council's own re-housing, some 10 cases of overcrowding were abated, involving 47 persons.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY: The milk supply throughout the District was generally satisfactory, except for some slight difficulty in one or two of the smaller parishes with supplies, due to retailers ceasing to function. This has been overcome to a great extent, by the larger retailing firms extending their areas of business. All milk producing premises are under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. There were 7 retailers of ordinary grades of milk and 8 large retailers operating in the district and selling Designated Milks, i.e. Pasteurised and Tuberculin-tested milk.

4 supplementary licences to sell pasteurised milk were renewed.
 4 " " " tuberculin tested milk were renewed.
 4 dealer's licences to sell pasteurised milk were renewed.

BAKEHOUSES: During the year there was a further decrease in the number of bakehouses operating in the district, only 8 remaining. Most of these are structurally old, but apart from two of them, they were satisfactorily maintained. Suitable action was taken in 2 cases.

SHOPS: Most of the shops in the district were satisfactorily maintained, although old structurally, there being few modern premises. Much time was spent on the examination of food in the shops, and a more satisfying feature was the decrease in the amount of foodstuffs condemned as being unfit for human consumption. All foodstuffs which were condemned, were voluntarily surrendered by the owners concerned.

Only two premises were registered for the first time, during the year, for the sale of Ice Cream (Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938).

An undertaking was given by a large firm of Ice Cream manufacturers, that they would not sell to their retailers in the district, any unpacked or part-packed ice cream.

MEAT: With the end of meat rationing during the year, butcher's slaughterhouses were once more put into use. 13 such premises were registered, but at 4 of them there was no slaughtering, and the licences would not be renewed at January 1st 1955. The slaughterhouses, situated in various parts of the district, were constantly visited and much time was spent on the examination of the carcase meat before sale to the public. Every effort was made to ensure that no meat was passed for sale until an examination had been made. No unsound meat was found exposed for sale. There was one licensed Knackers' Yard.

Section 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933 already in force, was supplemented during the year by the Slaughter of Animals Act 1954.

There were 21 licensed slaughtermen in the district, all but three of them being engaged in privately owned slaughterhouses.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were 140 notifications of infectious diseases received during the year, a decrease of 111 notifications compared with the figure for 1953. Of this number, 106 notifications were for Whooping Cough, with the parish of Long Buckby having the largest share (62). There was also a decrease of 12 notifications of scarlet fever compared with the number for 1953, all being individual cases and spread over the 12 months of the year. Full investigation was made into all the cases and the homes disinfected. A matter of real regret in an otherwise satisfactory year as regards infectious disease, was the notification of 2 cases of Diphtheria, both young children of one family. Both cases were confirmed after laboratory tests and were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Neither patient had been immunised against Diphtheria. The value of infant immunisation against Diphtheria cannot be over-emphasised. It is disturbing to observe that the number of infants being immunised has tended to decline in recent years. It is hoped that this trend may be halted, because the danger does still exist, and people should not think that, because there has been a vast decrease in the incidence of this disease, all danger is past. There were no notifications of food poisoning during 1953.

Period Distribution of Notified Cases of Infectious Disease

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Scarlet Fever	2	1	3	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	3	-	14
Pneumonia	-	1	5	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	10
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	3	29	39	7	2	5	2	3	1	2	7	6	106
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
 Totals	5	32	47	9	7	7	4	4	2	4	11	8	140

Parish Distribution of Infectious Disease

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Dysentery	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Totals
Ashby St. Ledgers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Badby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Barby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Braunston	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Byfield	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Crick	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Everdon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Flore	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Hellidon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Kilsby	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Long Buckby	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	66
Newnham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Norton	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stowe-IX-Churches	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Watford	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Weedon Bec	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
Welton	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
West Haddon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Woodford Halse	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Yelvertoft	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTALS	14	10	1	106	4	2	3	140

TUBERCULOSIS: There was an increase in the numbers of cases notified during the year, there being 9 cases as compared with 3 the previous year. In addition, there were 4 notifications of inward transfers of the disease; 8 were respiratory, 6 males and 2 females, and 1 non-respiratory, a female. Of the 4 inward transfers, 3 were respiratory, 2 males and 1 female, and 1 non-respiratory, a female. Investigations were made and disinfection carried out as necessary. There were 2 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis, one male and one female. The tuberculosis death rate was 0.12, per 1,000 of the total population.

Age and Sex distribution of New Cases and Deaths
for 1954.

Age Group	NEW CASES					DEATHS				
	Respiratory		Other			Respiratory		Other		
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female	
25-35	2	1			1			1		
45-55	3	1								
56-65	1									
Over 65						1				
TOTALS	6	2			1		1	1		

Cases on Register and Other Relevant Details
regarding Tuberculosis Cases for 1954.

Designation	Male		Female		Total
	Respiratory	Other	Respiratory	Other	
Notified 1954	6	-	2	1	9
Inward Transfers	2	-	1	1	4
Removals & Deaths	2	-	1	-	3
Cured	-	-	1	-	1
REMAINING ON REGISTER	25	4	27	11	67

Vaccination and Immunisation, 1954

Details of work carried out during 1954 in connection with the prevention of diphtheria, whooping cough and small-pox.

<u>Vaccination</u>						
	Under 1.	1.	2-4.	5-14.	15 or over.	Total
Primary	105	4	11	11	14	145
Re-Vaccination.	-	-	2	4	31	37

<u>Diphtheria Immunisation</u>								
Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5 to 9.	10 to 14.	Total	Booster
55	37	15	1	4	7	1	130	197

<u>Whooping Cough Immunisation</u>								
	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5-9.	10-14.	Total
Whooping Cough only.	8	2	2	1	6	1	-	20
+ Combined Diphtheria/Pertussis.	152	56	41	7	4	2	1	263

+ The combined diphtheria/pertussis figures are included in the figures for diphtheria immunisation.

<u>Number of Children who have completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation</u>							
Age	Under 1 (born in 1954)	1 & under	2 & under	3 & under	4 & under	9 & under	Total under 15
Number Immunised	25	177	319	498	665	1559	2525

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Estimated Population	BIRTHS		DEATHS			
		No.	Crude Rate	Under 1 year		All Ages	
				No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1948	15,850	281	17.6	6	21.0	167	10.60
1949	15,900	250	15.7	14	56.0	217	16.1
1950	15,840	255	16.0	5	19.6	190	11.9
1951	16,290	274	16.9	4	14.6	201	12.3
1952	16,440	236	14.3	7	29.6	182	11.07
1953	16,480	252	15.29	7	27.7	162	9.83
1954	16,590	257	15.27	2	7.7	202	12.18

